

The Times Dispatch

Business Office...Times... Dispatch Building
19 South Tenth Street
South Richmond..... 308 Main Street
Washington Bureau..... Munsey Building
Petersburg Bureau..... 209 N. Sacramento Street
Lynchburg Bureau..... 218 Eighth Street

BY MAIL One Six Three One
POSTAGE PAID. Year. Mo. Mo. Mo.
Daily with Sunday..... 46c 42.00 \$1.50 .50
Daily without Sunday..... 45c 1.00 1.00 .50
Sunday edition only..... 200 1.00 .50 .50

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service
in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg—
One Week
Daily with Sunday..... 10 cents
Daily without Sunday..... 9 cents
Sunday only..... 10 cents

Entered January 21, 1884, at Richmond, Va.,
as second-class matter under act of Congress
of March 3, 1879.

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1914.

QUALITY AS A CRITIC.

Every resident of a community deems it his inalienable right to criticize the administration of the civic affairs.

The city government he regards as his own, and the censure of it as his greatest indoor, outdoor and cigar-store sport and pastime. Any effort to restrict him precluded he do not exceed the bounds of decency, he would protest strongly and bitterly.

But every one does not possess the moral right to criticize his city officials. Some of us should maintain silence, no matter how much we may disapprove their acts. With what they do or do not do we have nothing to do, and because of our own electiveness to bridle our tongues.

These are the men who, having the right and the duty and the opportunity to qualify for the ballot and to use it, decline for any one of many selfish reasons to do so. The men of Richmond who are now qualified to vote, and who desire to do so in the interests of to-morrow, are therefore excused from criticism; the other number of civic adults, they forfeit their right to condemn any act or any refusal to act on the part of these Councilmen chosen at that primary, they take no part in the selection of Councilmen. They do not speak now. They will not be consulted later.

In to the polls to-morrow and express your choice! Then is the best time to say what you think. Then is the time when it will count.

HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS FOR WILSON.

Those newspapers and individuals who, anxious for a long and bloody war, ridicule President Wilson's assertion that we are not making war on Mexico, but upon Huerta, and such toward, with the declaration that it is impossible to make war on one man, may calmly ignore history. War has been made on one man, and more than once.

A correspondent of the New York Sun calls attention to two instances of war on a government or an individual.

The French intervention in Spain is one of the instances cited. In 1823 the French came war against the Liberal party in Spain, expelled the Carlists, dissolved the Cortes, and re-established absolutism under King Ferdinand. This done, the French troops were withdrawn. Napoleon made war on an individual or government more successfully.

More applicable to the Mexican situation is the action of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay against the dictator, Lopez of Paraguay in 1870. Lopez, a half-cleric, half-in, in the Paraguayan army succeeded his father as President in 1852. From the beginning Lopez was in trouble with his South American neighbors, because of his desire to establish a breakwater empire. His most vigorous eruptions started not only his neighbors, but many of his own people, and in result a combination of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay was formed against Lopez. In six months he was driven to battle on the Paraná River. The other three countries, the capital of Paraguay, installed a new government, and, without even asking permission, this war was against Lopez.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS.

If you are not a citizen now, you have a week in which to remedy your condition. It costs not quality nor consideration to do so. Within seven days, you will not be able to qualify in the City Council in the city, state and national elections, which take place between this date and November 3, next.

Questions of importance to the city not to be settled this spring and summer, questions of importance to Virginia and to the nation must be solved by the committee. The members of the Board and members of the Administrative Board are to be chosen. Candidates to represent the ten districts of the state are to be chosen. What they are to be, what they are to be and whom to whom they are to be appointed depends upon the voters of the commanding district. Those who do not qualify this week will not be consulted in these matters. What the constituents of this district or those of another district or of the state are to be chosen, will be a matter of no importance to any one. He will be a political nobody.

Duty to self, duty to country, the highest patriotism demands that all who can do so prepare to be part in the ensuing elections. Price of the freedom, whose ballot counts as much as any man's, desire to have a part in the government of a common country, willingness to sacrifice a little time and to take a little trouble for the good of all, and an earnest wish to make the city, State, and nation progressive of the progressiveness of our people.

And here is a tip for Baltimore for use in planning future campaigns. Get home before it is too late and exercise a little pain before the procession has passed.

If General Clegg wishes to create a real sensation and keep himself on the front page he will offer his army for service in Mexico.

History has heard of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians before this.

The marines didn't give General Mass a chance to tell it to 'em.

WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

Departure of the French.

Batter's flag of truce boat the Greyhound sailed up to the coast the other day with a message for the commander of the French ships anchored there, carried a message that the ships had been sent from the French to Richmond, but it has not yet learned out what his business was. In addition to those the French had gone back to Fortress Monroe the two French ships, Grenada and Merchant, weighed anchor and went down the Potowomoy River to Virginia waters to get the tobacco the French government had bought before the war, but they hurriedly departed they carried only 150 cases, while the French had stored in Richmond and Petersburg about 7,000 hogsheads. Why Butler made the ships hurry away is not known.

SAYS WITH ARMS.

Lieutenant Colonel William Lee Davidson, of the Seventh North Carolina Regiment, declines a seat in the Senate, and says he will open the grounds that his "patriotism will have much more weight upon the field of battle."

IMPRESSING HORSES.

Agents and officers of the Confederate government accepted Little's statement yesterday by suddenly appearing in the streets with instructions to impress horses for army work, and to force the owners to sell them to the country who were to be supplied to the market hurried home with their horses without waiting to sell them.

Among the horses impressed was the famous racer, "Kannie," owned by Major Thomas W. Deswell. When the news of the race was made known, and when Major Deswell had given a heavy bond to secure his horse in his place, recently refused an offer of \$25,000 for the animal.

AT PORT SUMTER.

Captain J. C. Mitchell, a gallant Confederate soldier, and the son of the expelled Irish patriot, is at present in command of Fort Sumter, and will command during the absence of Lieutenant Colonel John Elliott, who is away temporarily.

GENERAL RUMSON COMING.

It is understood that General Robert Ransom, of North Carolina, is soon to be appointed to the command of the Department of Houston, the place of General Elzy, who on his own application, will be transferred to the

SMALL BREED RIDER.

There was an unusual riot in San Juan, Ga., last Friday. Several hundred men and as many women gathered around the house of a small boy, the men made sharp noises and displayed arms, while the women entered several stores and took possession of what they could find, but they wanted in the provision store.

YANKEE OFFICERS CAPTURED.

Quite a number of Yankee officers, who were captured at the battle of Atlanta, in their attempt to recapture the town last week, reached here yesterday, and were taken at once to Little Rock, where they will remain until General W. H. Wood, who had been in command of the district of Arkansas and Franklin Beach of the Sixteenth Cavalry, and Lieutenant Colonel S. H. Burham and Major H. L. Bass, of the same regiment, and twenty-four other officers ranging from captain down to sergeant.

NEW TRIAL GRANTED.

Robert von Wedel, who was convicted of the murder of Robert E. Lee, has been granted a new trial by the court martial, which is to be held at the Canal Zone.

MARRIAGES.

At Rocky Mount, Franklin County, on the 26th instant, by the Rev. Dr. Lee, Captain William H. Chamberlain, Confederate States Army, to Margaret, daughter of Colonel

Hughes Gillard of this city.

At the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. Dr. Price, on the 13th, Alfred L. Cherry to Miss Hattie F. daughter of P. C. Larus, of this city.

OLD WORLD Gossip

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

GERMANY'S newest prince, Charles von Wedel, who had long been raised to the rank of colonel in the Imperial Guards from the nobility of Alsace-Lorraine, has had a most extraordinary career. Born in 1866, he fought against Prussia in the battle of Langensalza, distinguishing himself as a subaltern of the Hanoverian Dragon Regiment of the crown prince while in 1870 he was virtually dismissed from the post of German minister in Stockholm and from diplomatic service, for having married a Swedish lady, a descendant of the

House of Holstein, and the wife of a member of the royal family of Sweden.

Prince and Princess Wedel have no children, and consequently their newly acquired princely title will lapse with their death.

Charles Wedel's elevation to the rank of prince is certain to meet with the approval of all the minor German states. For there are few of the latter which are less represented in a more or less continental capacity, and each reigning house of Germany has one or more Wedels in its service, usually holding office not only of much dignity, but likewise of great trust.

The relations of the family with the royal house of Hanover were brought to a somewhat tragic close not long ago, through the death of Count Alfred, son of the blind King of Hanover into exile at Vienna, had the misfortune to become involved, through no fault of his own, in a duel with one of his royal master's favorite nephews, a particularly quarrelsome Prince Louis, and to wound him fatally in the arm. Although Count Wedel's son was not to blame, having had the duel virtually forced upon him, he was obliged to leave the employ of the King, all his previous devotion going for nothing, and to extricate himself for many years. A pathetic feature about this tragedy was that the dead prince's mother was stone-faced like her half-brother, King George V of Hanover. This enabled her other children to keep their eyes closed in knowledge of her son's death. She was led to believe that he was traveling abroad, engaged in some confidential mission, and batters purporting to come from him, and to have been written from various points of his journey, were ingeniously concocted and read her, just as the poor old lady was brought up about the preluded absence of his favor, her son to be, on the very eve of disclosure, she died suddenly, after only two or three days' illness, and so she did not learn, until she had passed beyond the great divide, that her son had preceded her into the infinite.

It is a review of this Count Alfred Wedel's life, Count George Wedel, who spent some years at Washington as secretary of the German embassy, occasionally acting as chargé d'affaires. He is married to a daughter of the late Baron Charles Macrae whose family, playing an important role in the Haute Finance of Berlin, was annihilated by King Frederick William IV of Prussia some sixty years ago.

No reference to the Wedels would be complete without a brief mention of the notorious Countess Hermann Wedel, half American, half Belgian parentage, who now confined in a sanitarium at Berlin, managed to inveigle Prince von Wedel's brother, Count Hermann von Wedel, into a secret marriage.

Known prior to the death of Emperor Franz Joseph, he was dispatched to the Habsburgs some 60 years ago, and was received by King Frederick William IV of Prussia some sixty years ago.

His intimacy with the Kaiser dates back to those days when William, prior to his accession, was wont to frequently go to Vienna to visit his grandfather, King Rudolf. It was an intimacy which led the Emperor, on several occasions, to intrude upon Wedel with extremely delicate missions. Thus, at the time of the late Prince Bismarck's removal from office, Charles von Wedel, who had ceased to belong to the embassy at Vienna, was dispatched thither by the

Kaiser, with a long confidential letter.

He was compelled to retire from the Prussian army, and to extricate himself from Switzerland, unfortunately, she was unable to retain possession of his name and title, and thanks to this succeeded in getting men ignorant of her history, entangled in her torts, being repeatedly on this account expelled from Germany and from Austria.

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Kaiser, with a long confidential letter to Emperor Francis Joseph, giving his reasons for the dismissal of the old chancellor. At the same time, Von Wedel was directed by William to furnish any additional verbal explanation that the Austrian monarch might ask, and seven years ago the Kaiser transferred him from the ambassadorship at Vienna to Strasburg, as Viceroy of Alsace and Lorraine, from which he returned to Berlin.

He divorced her not, however, before he had been compelled to retire from the Prussian army, and to extricate himself from Switzerland, unfortunately, she was unable to retain possession of his name and title, and thanks to this succeeded in getting men ignorant of her history, entangled in her torts, being repeatedly on this account expelled from Germany and from Austria.

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Voice of the People

Our Waterways and Our Fish.

To the Editor of The Times-Di

spatch: The powerful and impetuous dams that are being erected and rapidly increasing in number, spanning rivers, ways not only of Virginia, but of others, are completely shutting off the fishes from their natural habitat.

This greatly curtails the output of fish, and is rendering it difficult to correct this evil.

Extremely destructive to certain species, our salt water estuaries seek fresh water in which to spawn, whereas the rivers will not have them. Their eggs cannot hatch in salt water.

As an illustration of the great damage being done to these dams, we will cite the recent dam across the stream below the village of Canal Zone, in West Virginia, at a point known as Mingo.

The use of these enormous dams used to gear water power for use at a certain power plant, but the fish said, "No, thank you." The fish said, "No, thank you."

At this dam, the water pressure is so great that the fish pass up or down the dam.

At the same time, the fish are being destroyed.

These dams are destroying the entire fish population, but surely? Ignorant persons will say, "Yes, we would not forget that our fishing streams had somewhere anywhere, at some point, been damaged."

So far as the writer is informed, the fish have not been exterminated, but have been exterminated.

This being the case, the fish have been exterminated.

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